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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02
L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 CPR-01 DHA-02 /039 W
----------051622Z 068886 /46
P R 051532Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4351
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0944

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UK, UR, FR
SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS

REF: (A) STATE 51953 (NOTAL),#(B) BONN 4165 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF BONN GROUP AND DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION (REFTELS) OF THREE ITEMS CONCERNING HESS AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE PURUSED WITH SOVIETS, USBER BELIEVES THAT UNLESS SOMETHING TO THE CONTRARY IS SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARY'S RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW, THE DISCUSSION OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS OF HESS' IMPRISONMENT SHOULD PROCEED AT ONCE AT THE LEVEL OF THE SPANDAU GOVERNORS, AND THIS SHOULD BE PURSUED INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY OTHER APPROACHES ON RELEASE OF HESS OR DISPOSAL OF HIS REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

1. USBER BELIEVES THAT THE QUESTION OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS OF HESS' IMPRIONSONMENT SHOULD BE PURSUED IN THE SPANDAU GOVERNORS CHANNEL, AND SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

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DISTINCT FROM DISCUSSION OF HIS EARLY RELEASE FROM SPANDAU AND DISPOSAL OF HIS REMAINS IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH WHILE AT SPANDAU.

2. EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS , NAMELY (A) WOLF-RUDEIGER'S PUBLIC DEFIANCE OF SPANDAU REGULATIONS AND THE RELATIVELY MILD SOVIET REACTION TO HIS PUBLIC ACTIVITIES (I.E.,

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WHILE THE SOVIETS DID NOT AGREE TO A VISIT ON A DAY WHICH
HE HAD REQUESTED, THEY DID NOT SEEK TO BAN FUTURE VISITS
BY HIM AND, IN FACT, THEY AGREED TO A VISIT A WEEK LATER),
AND (B) IMMEDIATE SOVIET CONCURRENCE IN DOCTORS'
RECOMMENDATION THAT HESS UNDERGO TESTS AT THE BRITISH
MILITARY HOSPITAL, DEMOSTRATE A COOPERATIVE ATTI-
TUDE BY THE SOVIETS ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE SPANDAU

GOVERNORS LEVEL AS ESSENTIALLY ADMINISTRATIVE
QUESTIONS. THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS
WILL CONTINUE, HOWEVER, THE US GOVERNOR HAS SEVERAL
TIMES COMMENTED TO MISOFF ABOUT THE COOPERATIVE NATURE
OF SOVIET GOVERNOR BOBOVNIKOV AND REPORTED RECENTLY THAT
THE LATTER HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SOME OF
THE DOCTORS RECOMMENDATIONS TO AMELIORATE HESS' CONDITIONS
OF IMPRISONMENT. IN THIS SETTING, USBER BELIEVES IT WOULD
BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF THE ISSUE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN
CONDITIONS WERE RAISED AND HANDLED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE
GOVERNORS AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE (I.E., NON-POLITICAL)
QUESTION.

3. THE FRENCH AND BRITISH MISSIONS CONCUR THAT THE
GOVERNORS SHOULD BE THE ONES TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.
THEY ALSO AGREE THAT ACTION SHOULD BE POSTPONED PENDING
RECEIPT OF A REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS ON HESS
IN MOSCOW.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT
SOONEST ON SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON HESS.
WE ALSO REQUEST DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE US
BONN GROUP REP, UPON RECEIPT OF REPORT (AND ASSUMING
NOTHING IN MOSCOW DISCUSSIONSSUGGESTED THE CONTRARY),
TO SEEK BONN GROUP CONCURRENCE TO SCENARIO DESCRIBED IN
LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF THIS MESSAGE.
GEORGE

NOTE BY OC/T:#REFTEL A NOT IDENTIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POW, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, POLICIES, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Number: 1977USBERL00944
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Expiration:
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From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770484/aaaacvyj.tel
Line Count: 107
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Content Flags:
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SAS ID: 2888173
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUDOLF HESS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UK, UR, FR, (HESS, RUDOLF)
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